CLAIMS

1.   A method of monitoring a network for communicating with a device operably connected thereto, the network employing a data engine for interfacing with a data agent connected to the device comprising:

detecting the presence of the device through the data agent interfacing the data engine;

communicating with a first external repository, the first repository for storing device information about the device;

selecting information corresponding to the device from information stored at the first repository; and

transferring the selected information from the first repository to the data engine for use in communicating with the device, whereby the network is dynamically upgraded as devices are operably linked thereto.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein hyper text transfer protocol is used to transfer information between the network and the first repository.

3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

communicating with a second repository connected by a hyper text mark-up language link to the first repository for obtaining information regarding the device.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of communicating with the first repository is initiated through a data dictionary.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the step of selecting the information corresponding to the device from information of the first repository is accomplished through the use of a graphical user interface.

6.   A method of monitoring a first network for communicating with a device operably linked thereto, the first network employing a data engine, the data engine interfacing

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with a data agent connected to the device, comprising:

detecting the presence of a device through the data agent interfacing the data engine;

communicating with a first repository of a second network, the first repository for storing device information;

selecting information corresponding to the device from information stored at the first repository; and

transferring the selected information from the first repository to the data engine for use in communicating with the device, whereby the first network is dynamically upgraded as devices are operably linked thereto.

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein hyper text transfer protocol is used to transfer information between the first network and the second network.

8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:

communicating with a second repository through a hyper text mark-up language link to the first repository for obtaining information regarding the device.

9.   The method of claim 6 wherein the step of selecting the information corresponding to the device from information of the first repository is accomplished through the use of a graphical user interface of the data engine.

10.   A method for establishing communications between a network and a device operatively connected to the network without regard to the language of the connected device, the network including a data engine for interfacing with a data dictionary and a data agent which is connected to the device, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting, by the data agent, device information including the identity of the device, the language of the device and device data;

obtaining, by the data engine, from the data agent, the device information detected by the data agent;

obtaining, by the data engine, from the data dictionary, information about the language of the device to facilitate translation of the device data into a selective human-

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understandable form;

translating, by the data engine, the obtained device data into the selected human-understandable form using the information obtained from the data dictionary; and

presenting, by the data engine, to a user interface, the translated device data in the selected human-understandable form.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of communicating with a first repository which is external to the network, for obtaining information about the device and the language of the device which is not available from the data dictionary to facilitate translation of the device data into the selective human-understandable form.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising storing, in the data dictionary, the information obtained from the first repository.